

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior listing of claims with the following listing of claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

gauging [[the]] a size of [[the]] a left ventricle;

determining [[the]] an amount by which the left ventricle should be reduced from the gauging of its size; and

reducing [[the]] a dimension of the left ventricle in accordance with the determined amount.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 22, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle comprises encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length band, and determining the size of the ventricle with reference to [[the]] a length of the band.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle comprises inserting an expansible member into the left ventricle, and expanding the expansible member.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the expansible member is a balloon, and expanding the balloon is accomplished by the introduction of fluid into an interior of the balloon.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle further comprises measuring the volume of fluid introduced into the interior of the balloon.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 22, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening [[the]] in the left ventricular wall.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 27, wherein creating an opening [[the]] in the left ventricular wall comprises creating perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

introducing an expansible member into ~~[[the]]~~ a left ventricle of ~~[[a]]~~ the patient's heart, the expansible member being at least partially collapsed;

expanding the expansible member within the left ventricle of ~~[[a]]~~ the patient's heart; and

reducing ~~[[the]]~~ a volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the expanded volume of the expansible member.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the amount of volume reduction of the patient's left ventricle is determined by the expanded volume of the expansible member compared to a desired volume of the left ventricle.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein expanding the expansible member comprises the introduction of fluid into the interior of the expansible member.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 31, wherein reducing ~~[[the]]~~ a dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening ~~[[the]]~~ in the left ventricular wall.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 34, wherein creating an opening ~~[[the]]~~ in the left ventricular wall comprises creating a perforation in the left ventricle extending to ~~[[the]]~~ an apex of the heart.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length band;

determining ~~[[the]]~~ a size of the left ventricle with reference to ~~[[the]]~~ a length of the band; and

reducing ~~[[the]]~~ a volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the determined size of the left ventricle.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38, wherein reducing the ~~dimension~~ volume of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening ~~[[the]]~~ in the left ventricular wall.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38, wherein reducing the ~~dimension~~ volume of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38, wherein creating an opening ~~[[the]]~~ in the left ventricular wall comprises creating a perforation in the left ventricle extending to ~~[[the]]~~ an apex of the heart.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38, wherein reducing the ~~dimension~~ volume of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.